

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 /028 W

----- 127435

P R 211204Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6870

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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PASS AGRICULTURE FOR L&LP, FAS AND STEINMETZ, APHIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR/FR

SUBJECT: VETERINARY REQUIREMENTS FOR VARIETY MEAT IMPORTS
INTO FRANCE.

1. VARIETY MEAT LUNCHEON FEBRUARY 18 OCCASION DETAILED DISCUSSION BETWEEN TRADE AND DR. BUJADOUX OF FRENCH VET. SERVICE ON OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS AFFECTING IMPORTS VARIETY MEATS INTO FRANCE.
2. ON QUESTION FREEZING CERTIFICATE, DR. BUJADOUX STATED THAT NOTICE WOULD BE PUBLISHED WITHIN TWO WEEKS EXTENDING DEADLINE TO JULY 1, 1975. THERE WAS LITTLE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY TRADE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT (MOSTLY FROM FRANCE BUT ALSO ONE FROM U.S. AND ONE FROM NETHERLANDS) OVER THIS NEW FRENCH REQUIREMENT.
3. DR. BUJADOUX STATED CLEARLY THAT FRENCH VETERINARY REQUIREMENTS DO NOT REPEAT NOT CALL FOR INCISION OF LOBE OF HOG LIVERS, ALTHOUGH THIS IS REQUIRED FOR BEEF, SHEEP AND GOAT LIVERS, AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY. MR. N. WEYLING OF EUROPIFA OF ROTTERDAM SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT "DUTCH SPECS" ALSO DO NOT REQUIRE SUCH INCISIONS. HOWEVER, THE ISSUE BECAME MUDDIED WHEN SUBJECT OF INCISION

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HOG LIVER GLAND AROSE. DR. BUJADOUX STATED THAT SUCH

INCISIONS REQUIRED TO INSPECT FOR DISEASE TO FULFILL FRENCH REGULATIONS. EVIDENTLY, "DUTCH SPECS", IN PRACTICE, DO NOT REQUIRE THIS HOG LIVER GLAND INCISION. HOWEVER, DR. BUJADOUX INSISTED THAT WRITTEN REGULATIONS OF NETHERLANDS AND FRANCE ARE SIMILAR AND THAT THERE IS NO REAL DIFFERENCE IN "FRENCH SPECS" AND "DUTCH SPECS". AT LUNCHEON DR. BUJADOUX STATED HIS BELIEF THAT U.S. REQUIRED GLAND INCISION. ALTHOUGH PHILLIPS WAS CERTAIN THAT THIS NOT REPEAT NOT TRUE, HE PROMISED TO INQUIRE FROM AMI ON PRACTICES IN U.S. PACKING PLANTS. WHEN AGATT RECEIVED CONFIRMATION FROM PHILLIPS THAT GLAND INCISION NOT REPEAT NOT DONE, THIS WAS PASSED TO BUJADOUX.

4. OUR UNDERSTANDING THIS MATTER IS THAT FRENCH HAVE REQUIRED HOG LIVER GLAND INCISION FOR OVER 5 YEARS. ALTHOUGH U.S. MEAT INSPECTION REGULATIONS DO NOT REQUIRE THIS PROCEDURE, IT HAD BEEN PERFORMED AT EXTRA COST TO FILL FRENCH REQUIREMENTS. TWO YEARS AGO FRENCH ISSUED DEROGATION ALLOWING IMPORTATION INTO FRANCE OF HOG LIVERS FROM THE NETHERLANDS UNDER "DUTCH SPECS" AND U.S. EXPORTERS SUBSEQUENTLY DROPPED INCISION PROCEDURE AND EXPORTED WITH DUTCH CERTIFICATE. THIS ASSUMES ADDED IMPORTANCE IN VIEW OF COST ESTIMATE OF THREE DOLLARS PER CWT FOR INCISION PLUS PROBLEMS OF ADJUSTING PACKING HOUSE ROUTINE AND FINDING VETERINARY INSPECTORS TO DO WORK. WITH PORK LIVERS CURRENTLY SELLING AT 10-12 CENTS PER POUND, AS REPORTED BY PHILLIPS, COST OF PROCEDURE RELATIVELY HIGH. COST ESTIMATE GIVEN BY PHILLIPS CAME FROM AMI.

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----- 127453

P R 211204Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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5. WE, AND TRADE, HAVE GOTTEN CONTRADICTORY EXPLANATIONS FROM DR. BUJADOUX. ALTHOUGH HE HAS STATED THAT HE WANTS HOG LIVERS TO ENTER UNDER "FRENCH SPECS", HE HAS SET NO DEADLINE FOR THIS AND HAS NOT REPEAT NOT SAID FLATLY THAT HE WOULD REFUSE "DUTCH SPECS". FURTHERMORE, HE STATED ON FEBRUARY 20 TO AGATT THAT HE WOULD GRANT DEROGATION IF REQUESTED OFFICIALLY. ONE MUST ASK, "DEROGATION TO WHAT? SINCE "DUTCH SPECS" NOT YET REFUSED. APPARENTLY, WHOLE MATTER STIRRED UP BY BUJADOUX STATEMENT RE END OF PERMISSION FOR "DUTCH SPECS" BUT SUBSEQUENTLY, BECAUSE OF TRADE PRESSURE OR OTHER INTERNAL REASONS WITHIN GOF, FOLLOW THROUGH NOT FORTHCOMING. THIS HAS LEFT TRADE IN STATE OF CONFUSION. GOF PROBABLY FACED WITH CONFLICTING PRESSURE FROM TRADE, PROCESSORS AND DOMESTIC PRODUCERS WITH VARIETY MEAT SUPPLIES REPORTEDLY IN CURRENT OVER-SUPPLY.

6. AS COURSE OF ACTION, AGATT SUGGESTS THAT IMPORTERS BE LEFT TO CLARIFY THIS MATTER WITH FRENCH VET SERVICE AND THAT THEY NOTIFY THEIR EXPORTERS OF OUTCOME. IF IMPASSE REACHED AND IMPORTS REFUSED WITH "DUTCH SPECS", WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO REQUEST DEROGATION TO ALLOW CONTINUATION OF ENTRY PORK LIVERS WITHOUT INCISION FROM NETHERLANDS

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AND/OR TO REQUEST SUSPENSION FRENCH REQUIREMENT FOR INCISION FOR DIRECT IMPORTS WITH FRENCH CERTIFICATE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT PRODUCTIVE TO PURSUE THIS MATTER OFFICIALLY AT THIS POINT SINCE WE COULD FORCE FRENCH INTO TAKING UNNECESSARILY HARD LINE. WE SUSPECT THAT FRENCH VET AUTHORITIES MAY BE WILLING TO LET THIS MATTER "SLIDE" BY CONTINUING TO ALLOW ENTRY WITH DUTCH CERTIFICATES, DESPITE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BUJADOUX STATEMENTS.

7. FAS/APHIS GUIDANCE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STANDARDS, MEATS, IMPORT CONTROLS, FOOD & DRUG REGULATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS04567
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750062-0385
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750223/aaaaaure.tel
Line Count: 161
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AGR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <17 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VETERINARY REQUIREMENTS FOR VARIETY MEAT IMPORTS INTO FRANCE.
TAGS: EAGR, FR, (BUJADOUX)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006